

Message Text

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53

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 AF-10 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 EB-11 SIL-01 LAB-06

COME-00 RSR-01 /165 W

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R 092245 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO USMISSION USUN

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

SECSTATE WASHDC 9027

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PN, UN, VE, ELAB

SUBJECT: SC MEETING IN PANAMA

REF: USUN 720

1. CONFEDERACION LATINOAMERICANA DE TRABAJADORES (CLAT)
WAS UNTIL NOVEMBER 1971 KNOWN AS CONFEDERACION LATINOAMERICANA
SINDICAL CRISTIANA (CLASC). CLASC HAS LONG BEEN IDENTIFIED
WITH MORE RADICAL ELEMENTS OF LATIN AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN
CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT. CONFEDERATION DROPPED WORD
" CHRISTIAN" FROM ITS NAME IN 1971 FOR TACTICAL REASONS.
THERE ARE GROUNDS TO BELIEVE THAT EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS
ARE FINALLY BECOMING AWARE THAT CLAT'S POLICY LINE AND
PROPAGANDA ARE FAR MORE EXTREME AND BEAR LITTLE RESEMBLANCE
TO USUAL SOCIAL CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE.

2. CLAT CLAIMS TO HAVE AFFILIATED UNIONS OR CONFEDERATIONS IN
MOST LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES BUT THESE UNIONS ALMOST
UNIVERSALLY ARE SMALL RUMP GROUPS WITH LITTLE OR NEGATIVE
INFLUENCE ON NATIONAL LABOR SCENES. IN ANY CASE, CLAT,
AND BEFORE IT, CLASC, HAVE LONG RECORD OF ANTI- UNITED STATES
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AGITATION AND VERY SHORT RECORD AS LEGITIMATE LABOR ORGANIZATION CONCERNED WITH DEFENDING OR IMPROVING WORKERS' INTERESTS.

3. CLAT' S SECRETARY GENERAL EMILIO MASPERO IS CHARISMATIC ARGENTINE WHOSE MAJOR ACTIVITY SEEMS TO BE FORMULATION OF DENUNCIATIONS SUCH AS THAT RECENTLY RECEIVED BY UNITED NATIONS. THEMES COMMON TO BOTH CLASC/ CLAT AND MASPERO OVER PAST DECADE ARE APPEALS FOR LATIN AMERICAN SOLIDARITY AGAINST YANKEE IMPERIALISM, U. S. EXIT FROM PANAMA, OPPOSITION TO " OPPRESSIVE CAPITALIST SOCIETY", THIRD WORLD UNITY, AND AN UNDEFINED SOCIAL REVOLUTION.

4. MASPERO' S PRIMARY IMPORTANCE IS HIS ABILITY TO OBTAIN PRESS SPACE AS SPOKESMAN FOR A LATIN AMERICAN LABOR CONFEDERATION, THUS GIVING HIS STATEMENTS AN AURA OF RESPECT- ABILITY. MASPERO' S STATUS AS A SPOKESMAN IS SERIOUSLY IMPINGED BY FACTS THAT CLAT REPRESENTS ONLY SMALL FRACTION OF LATIN AMERICAN TRADE UNION MOVEMENT AND, AS REPORTED FROM VARIOUS SOURCES, THE ORGANIZATION IS NOT EVEN SELF- SUPPORTING BUT DEPENDENT UPON OUTSIDE SUBSIDIES.

5. MASPERO' S LONG REPEATED DENUNCIATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES AND HIS LIMITED REAL INFLUENCE IN LATIN AMERICAN LABOR SERIOUSLY RESTRICT THE EFFECTIVENESS OF HIS CURRENT ATTACKS. CERTAINLY ONE INDICATION HE WILL USE IN JUDGING THE SUCCESS OF HIS LETTER TO THE UNITED NATIONS WILL BE THE AMOUNT OF EFFORT WE USE TO OFFICIALLY REFUTE IT.
DEVINE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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